

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MBFR V 00411 131749Z

46

ACTION ACDA-10

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0411

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INFORMAL SESSION WITH EASTERN

REPS NOVEMBER 12, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN THE NOVEMBER 12 INFORMAL SESSION OF THE VIENNA MBFR TALKS, THE ALLIES WERE REPRESENTED BY CANADIAN REP, FRG REP AND US REP, AND THE EAST BY SOVIET REPS KHLESTOV AND SMIRNOVSKY, GDR REP OESER AND CZECHOSLOVAK REP KLEIN. THE EAST ANSWERED FOUR OF THE QUESTIONS POSED BY ALLIED REPS IN THE INFORMAL SESSION OF NOVEMBER 5 CONCERNING THE EASTERN INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL. THE EASTERN REPLIES DID NOT INDICATE ANY FURTHER FLEXIBILITY IN THE EASTERN POSITION AND CONFIRMED THAT AS REGARDS THESE POINTS, THE EASTERN INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL DOES NOT DEPART FROM THE NOVEMBER 8, 1973 WARSAW PACT DRAFT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00411 131749Z

AGREEMENT. AS REGARDS THE WESTERN PROPOSAL TO EXCHANGE DATA,

KHLESTOV ONCE AGAIN SAID THAT DISCUSSION OF DATA SHOULD AWAIT PRIOR SETTLEMENT OF ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE, IN PARTICULAR, THE QUESTION OF WHOSE FORCES SHOULD BE REDUCED FROM THE OUTSET. EASTERN REPS SEEMED TO BE PUT OFF BALANCE BY SOME ALLIED QUESTIONS CONCERNING THEIR FIRST STEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL.

2. GDR REP OESER OPENED THE SESSION BY REVIEWING THE EASTERN INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL. HE SAID EASTERN REPS WERE UNCERTAIN AS TO HOW TO ANSWER WESTERN QUESTIONS ON THE PROPOSAL POSED IN THE NOVEMBER 5 SESSION BECAUSE THE WESTERN REPS HAD NOT YET INDICATED WHETHER THE FRAMEWORK IN WHICH THEY WERE ASKING THESE QUESTIONS WAS ONE OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE IDEA OF A FIRST STEP PROPOSAL. MOST WESTERN QUESTIONS SEEMED TO INDICATE A WESTERN DESIRE TO PUSH DISCUSSION BACK TO THE TERRAIN OF THE WESTERN PHASE I PROPOSAL. CANADIAN REP SAID EAST SHOULD NOT POSE PRE-CONDITIONS TO ANSWERING QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR OWN PROPOSAL. HE REPEATED EARLIER WESTERN QUESTIONS AND REQUESTED SPECIFIC REPLIES AND ADDED QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER EAST CONTEMPLATED CEILINGS AS A RESULT OF ITS INITIAL REDUCTION PROPOSAL, WHETHER THESE CEILINGS WOULD BE IN NUMERICAL TERMS, AND WHETHER THE 20,000 WAS MAXIMUM REDUCTION EAST WOULD CONTEMPLATE UNDER TERMS OF THIS PROPOSAL.

3. CZECHOSLOVAK REP KLEIN RESPONDED TO FOUR ALLIED QUESTIONS POSED ON NOVEMBER 9. HE SAID THAT (A) TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF IMPLEMENTATION OF AN INITIAL REDUCTION STEP AGREEMENT BEYOND THE ONE-YEAR PERIOD PROPOSED BY WARSAW PACT WOULD UNDERMINE THE PURPOSE OF THAT PROPOSAL, WHICH WAS TO GAIN RAPID AGREEMENT ON AN INTRODUCTORY REDUCTION STEP. (B) THE EAST WOULD NOT AGREE TO TAKE REDUCTIONS IN THE INITIAL REDUCTION STEP IN THE PROPORTIONS PREVIOUSLY SUGGESTED BY THE WEST BECAUSE THESE PROPORTIONS VIOLATED THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY. (C) AS TO WHETHER SOVIETS WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE LARGER PROPORTION OF EASTERN REDUCTIONS IN AN INITIAL REDUCTION STEP OR ALL OF THESE REDUCTIONS, KLEIN SAID THE EAST HAD ALREADY GONE FAR ENOUGH IN MEETING WESTERN INTERESTS. (D) HE REPEATED THE SAME ANSWER TO THE WESTERN QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE EAST WOULD AGREE THAT THE US AND USSR COULD REDUCE THEIR FORCES BEFORE THE REMAINING DIRECT PARTICIPANTS HAD

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00411 131749Z

UNDERTAKEN SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS AS TO THE AMOUNT AND TIMING OF THEIR OWN REDUCTIONS. OESER CONFIRMED THAT ONE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE INITIAL REDUCTION STEP PROPOSAL WAS TO SECURE COMMITMENT BY OTHER WESTERN DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AS TO SCOPE AND TIMING OF THEIR REDUCTIONS BEFORE ANY REDUCTIONS TOOK PLACE AND THAT PROPOSAL WAS IDENTICAL TO NOVEMBER 8 EASTERN DRAFT IN THIS RESPECT.

4. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE NEXT SESSION SHOULD BE HELD
ON NOVEMBER 19. END SUMMARY.

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